



Florida House of Representatives

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Statement by
REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH GIBBONS
Democratic Ranking Member, Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations
Committee

“Florida’s businesses and workforce deserve a real economic stimulus plan. Instead of just slashing spending on schools, health care and tourism promotion efforts that grow and sustain our economy, I urge my colleagues to redirect dollars into efforts that have proven to create jobs.

“The very serious problems Floridians are facing during the economic downturn need more than political window dressing. People need assurances from government leaders that effective economic development strategies, such as the Visit Florida program, will flourish.

“Republicans are seeking to cut \$2.3 billion from the state budget and spend just \$10 million to stimulate the economy with unproven loan programs. That’s not as sensible as investing in Visit Florida. I’m appalled by House Republican plans to cut Visit Florida funding by nearly \$12 million, which is more than half of its typical annual budget.

“We have a winning formula for growing jobs and sustaining our economy, and it’s called Visit Florida. I encourage Republican leaders to use some of the \$10 million they have set aside for economic stimulus to protect Visit Florida’s budget from irresponsible cuts.”

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